

## You Don't Own It

Not long ago we cheered to see the folks in Eastern Europe march in the street to overthrow a communist government. Those folks have been deprived of free enterprise and the private ownership of property for 40 years or more and they had had enough.

There is something about the private ownership of property that has brought the United States to the leadership of industrialized nations in just the past 200 years. If a person can own property, he has the burning desire to work hard, be frugal and save and exercise a human trait of exercising dominion over his property.

We cheered to see our fellow human beings overthrow the bonds of slavery, socialism and communism and demand the right to own property.

But at the same time our fellow men are taking away our own ownership of property. And we sit by and watch. Worse, we even join in the effort. A few months ago, it was hard to find a person who liked spotted owl any way other than boiled in Exxon oil.

Now, however, we find lots of folks who think multiple use of water is a good idea.

Baione. Water law in the West has long held that water in the streams, rivers and lakes belongs to the public. Until, of course, someone comes along and makes beneficial use of it. Then it belongs to him. The water he uses and water he can use belongs to him. Private property. The very thing the East European's demanded and are getting.

The right to appropriate water, based on first come, first served, is a property right just like any other property. But now we are giving that property right away. Some of the very folks you'd expect to fight to preserve it the most are giving it away.

Here's how multiple use destroys the property right in water. Lets say your irrigation water runs down a stream with fish in it. It cascades over a dam that generates electricity and behind the dam is a lake where people water ski. Great multiple use, wouldn't you say: fish runs, recreation, power and irrigation.

Well, what happens in a drought? There isn't enough water to do all things for all people. Now what? Without a clear system of water rights, some government bureaucrat will decide that the fish and recreation are more important than the power or the irrigation. And the decision will be based on some political power play other than reason or logic.

A first in time, first in right system makes the allocation easy. And the allocation will be based on a set of real values. If the power need is greater than the irrigation, the dam folks will step up and buy the irrigation rights. If the fish are more important those folks will offer a higher price and so on until the highest use is served, based on the economic values involved. That will happen only if the rule of law is: the right to use water is a private property right, acquired by first appropriation or by purchase.

Those who want to overturn this long successful system of water allocation are no different than the thieves that want to steal the forests, residential property or ground water.

Warning: The Morrow County Water Resources Advisory Committee is about to endorse multiple use, thereby giving up the idea that water is private property. Our advice is to immediately sell any water rights, or land to which they pertain. Otherwise it will be stolen from you.



## BMCC computer service to assist researchers

Researchers from Umatilla and Morrow counties will soon have a new information gathering tool. EPIC, a new service that provides subject access to an international data base of 10,000 libraries, will be in use at Blue Mountain Community College library by fall term.

Darcy Dauble, head of library and audio visual services at BMCC, several members of her staff and librarians from Eastern Oregon State College and the Umatilla County Special Library Service District, recently attended a workshop, held at BMCC, describing the EPIC program. Participants in the workshop learned about the various uses of the

EPIC system as well as access protocol.

EPIC is a service offered through Online Computer Library Center, Inc. BMCC has been linked to OCLC online cataloging and interlibrary loan services since 1983. However, according to Dauble, these uses have been behind the scenes and the benefits not apparent to patrons. Through EPIC, references and research can be greatly expanded.

EPIC users can access materials through subject headings. The database contains maps, archives, dissertations, serials, recordings, musical scores, audio visual materials, manuscripts and books from thousands of member libraries.

"Theoretically the system is for self-use with minimal supervision," noted Dauble. "The system is unique because of its size, accessibility, and ease of use." Dauble expects the system to be used by independent scholars, and BMCC faculty and staff.

## Ione Fire District to Meet

The Ione Rural Fire District will meet the second Monday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Ione City Hall.

The public is invited to attend.

## Extension offers Advice on winter wheat varieties

Oregon State University Extension agent Fred Lundin reports there are a number of different varieties of winter wheat. The most popular by far is Stephens, with over 70 percent of the wheat acreage of Oregon planted to this variety. "The advantages of Stephens wheat are its genetic potential to yield very high in wet years, and its rusting resistance, which has held up very well for 13 years," continues Lundin.

Stephens is not very winter hardy, having a rate of only four on a scale of one to ten. The problem with this was demonstrated two years ago during the very cold winter. Many thousands of acres of Stephens froze out, requiring reseeding with a spring wheat.

"On the other hand," says Lundin, "it is just this lack of winter hardiness which allows Stephens to yield so high during normal years. It does not go into true dormancy the way most winter wheats do. It continues to grow throughout the winter, as long as the temperature is high enough for it to grow." Other wheat varieties go dormant and remain dormant throughout the winter until the spring thaws.

Stephens will not outyield other varieties when it is faced with certain diseases. Cephalosporium stripe is an example of a disease quite often seen in Morrow County which can significantly reduce the yield potential of Stephens. Growers with a history of Cephalosporium may wish to plant a variety such as Hill 81 or Lewjain which have resistance to this disease.

Strawbreaker foot rot is another disease which can give Stephens a bad time. Madsen, a soft white wheat from Washington State, or Hyak, a club from the same source, both have excellent foot rot resistance. Planting a resistant variety is especially important since the fungus which causes foot rot has developed a resistance to the

fungicide used for control.

The best bet for growers deciding what variety to plant is to plant several different ones. "Stephens still is our best yielder, and should have a prominent place on the farm," adds Lundin. A more winter hard variety, such as Daws, might be in order for about 20 percent of the acreage, in order to protect against a complete freeze out during the winter. Growers with a history of a certain wheat disease, such as Strawbreakers foot rot, should plant varieties resistant to that disease.

A little cultural control not only limits the grower's liability, it may result in more profits in the end. For more information on winter wheat varieties, call the OSU Extension office, 676-9642.

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## Rose hired by SWCD

Andy Rose was recently hired by Morrow, Wheeler and Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation districts with a Planning Grant from the Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission to do a coordinated resource management plan on Rock Creek.

He recently completed two weeks of hiking and inventory of over 80 miles of Rock Creek. "Four rattlesnakes, several blisters and a few lost pounds since leaving the John Day River, I arrived at Lava Flats, in the headwaters," reports Rose. His overall assessment found a watershed that had degraded but has great potential. The condition of the stream corridor is a primary indicator of the watershed health. "I found areas of eroded banks, pools of dead or near dead fish, scourholes, bottomlands stripped of vegetation, tree stumps, and a dry creek bed," continued Rose. What could be a meandering stream with stable banks has become a gouged out trench.

Timber harvesting, grazing of livestock and agriculture, each an economic benefit from the watershed, have also contributed to its deterioration. "Fortunately positive changes can be implemented, and some cases already are," says Rose. Examples of changes in the uplands include terracing, CRP, and maximizing residue.

Timber harvested as early as the 1940's in the forest, especially along the stream corridor, has adversely impacted the runoff pattern. Trees provide shade which regulates snowmelt. Their shade also cools water in the creek, improving fish habitat, and most importantly, the root systems stabilize the stream banks. Trees are a valuable component to the Rock Creek corridor; they should be carefully managed in the stream bed and in any tributaries. Rose adds, "Even when trees

naturally fall into the creek this might be an improvement. They act to trap debris, drop out sediment and slow down high water."

Cattle grazing impacts the streambank through the loss of vegetation and in tearing up the side slopes. Cattle are lazy, they will stay close to the surface water, tear up limited grasses in the canyon bottoms and seldom venture high unless managed for that purpose. "I have seen extreme differences in range conditions of Rock Creek, both areas supporting livestock," says Rose. Over one half the watershed (175,000 acres) is classed rangeland. Development of springs or stock ponds away from the stream corridor, pasture rotation, and maintaining a diversity of grasses appear to be concerns of the cattlemen.

Cropping patterns have changed over the years on Rock Creek. "Ditch systems were an extensive and primary form of irrigation at one time. Washed out diversion gates, the low cost of energy to operate sprinklers, the amount of labor to operate ditches and a less dependable flow pattern all contributed to elimination of open ditch systems," reports Andy Rose. "Cropping up to the edge of the creek bank, in some cases actually realigning the creek, have had an impact on the stream corridor."

The symptoms of a watershed health can be seen on a hydrograph. A hydrograph is a record of streamflows throughout the water year (October through September). The hydrograph can be calculated for one year or an average from several years. "Based on streamflow records from a Cayuse Canyon (1965-81), my calculations show Rock Creek passes 70 percent of its entire yield in a four month period, January through April," Rose concludes. Rose plans on discussing hydrographs from Rock Creek in the future.

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